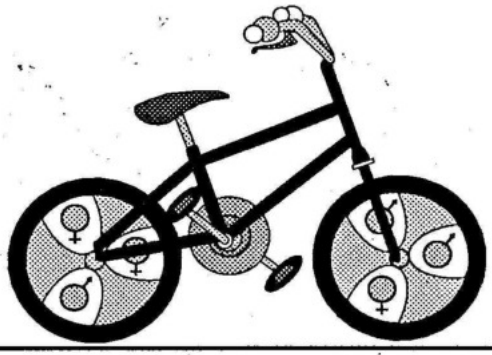


OBN NEWS

June 1991

OBN News, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9 Tel: (416)-649-1356 / Fax: (416)-649-1314

The Ontario Bisexual Network (OBN) is a group formed to enable contacts among bisexual people in Ontario, and to help them undertake activities of interest. At present, these activities include: a mailing list, a newsletter, support group meetings, social activities, a political action group, education of others, information sharing, and safe sexuality information. The network's only mandate is to bring people together. — OBN Meeting, August 2, 1990.

MAJOR BISEXUAL COMMUNITY DISCOVERED IN ONTARIO!

TORONTO, June 1, 1996 — The scientific community today announced a new discovery of major social importance for Ontarians and their political leaders.

In a lengthy article outlining the demographics of the Province in more detail than has hithertofore ever been recorded or announced publicly, government and university researchers documented the existence of a surprisingly vast but almost invisible community of bisexual people living throughout Ontario.

Surprised at the magnitude of their discovery, the researchers commented, "We had no idea these people even existed — it was a complete surprise to us. We wouldn't have noticed it if the computer hadn't dialed into the bisexual bulletin board on its own initiative to verify the raw data."

A spokesperson for the Ontario Bisexual Network is quoted as saying "We are grateful to finally make contact. We have been trying to make ourselves visible for some time now, but we were beginning to think we must have a special pigment in our skins which makes it difficult for light reflected from us to reach other people's optic nerves."

The discovery has rekindled a decades-old debate as to whether bisexual people really exist, but the researchers insist that their new data is irrefutable.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

CANADIAN GAY ARCHIVES

TORONTO LESBIAN AND PRIDE DAY COMMITTEE CREATES OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE

(An Editorial)

Our banner headlines reflect the hopes and plans of many bisexual people for the upcoming years, to have bisexuality recognized as a legitimate, integral and highly supportive liberation component working together with lesbian and gay communities everywhere.

Bisexual people have shared the burden of oppressive attitudes and actions in our society towards same-gender loving. Bisexual people also share many of the internalized bad feelings that come about from being targeted and marginalized. So do we share the pride in our true nature as we join with lesbians and gay men to celebrate this year's Pride Day, June 30, 1991.

As with large numbers of lesbians and gay men throughout the world, many bisexual men and women are determined to end homophobia, violence and discrimination against people who love others of the same gender, and are putting their efforts and resources into erasing the programming that gave rise to these artificial divisions between people on the basis of sexual orientation.

Our hats go off to the many men and women who have put in long hours of effort to create the Toronto Pride Day. It is an enormous undertaking and it is a significant means of assisting all of us to break down the barriers and prejudices in the society at large and within our own communities.

The Toronto Lesbian and Gay Pride Day Committee has this year created an Outreach/Long Range Planning Subcommittee. This is the committee which has pledged to meet with the bisexual community and to consider the inclusion of bisexuality in written Pride Day materials and possibly in the name of the event itself.

This year, the word *bisexual* appears in the Pride Day Souvenir Program twice in a hundred pages (under *Bykes* and *OBN*, pp. 56&58). Perhaps with a continued effort on our part, our community can be more visible in 1992.

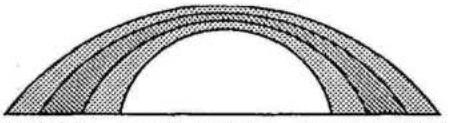
OBN Meeting Times

OBN Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on the third Thursday of every month from 8 to 10 p.m., at the 519 Community Center (519 Church Street, just north of Wellesley). To add your name to our mailing list write to OBN at the address above.

Who to Contact

The following is a list of OBN members who have volunteered their time to talk with you about questions you may have, or if you just need someone for emotional support:

Bill Jeffery 922-4262
Bruce Small 649-1356
Carol Broderick 766-7011
Catherine Crockett 537-5832
Les Green 968-6955
Rob Cusson 362-9892
Scott Lucas 633-5666



VIGIL ON THE BRIDGE

Can a monogamous person and a polygamous person love each other and develop a caring long term relationship?
What could make such a "couple" happy?
Is the intensity of the genital desire of each partner a central issue?
What if the polygamous person is bisexual?
Should compromises be made by each of them?
If so, at what level: emotional, social, sexual?
If they succeed in satisfying each other's expectations and needs, how will they deal with social pressure for conformity around them?
Will they feel isolated? If so, would you care about them? Both of them?

Feel free to forward your answer(s) to any questions appearing in VIGIL ON THE BRIDGE to the OBN News, c/o Leo Beaulieu.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO COMMITTEE ON *HOMOPHOBIA* ACKNOWLEDGES *BISEXUALITY*

Our thanks go out to a representative of the University of Toronto Committee on Homophobia for making a special visit to our early June meeting.

The Homophobia Committee is publishing an information brochure for distribution on the U of T campus in early September during student orientation week. Those of us at the meeting noted with interest and appreciation that there is ample acknowledgment throughout the draft brochure about the existence of bisexual men and women alongside lesbians and gay men. It also acknowledges our common issues, including homophobia, violence and discrimination against people who love others of the same gender.

Pride Day Schedule

Volunteers to staff the OBN table at Pride Day are requested to meet between 11:15 and 11:45 am on Sunday, June 30th outside the 519 for setup, and later in the day at the OBN table itself. Those who wish to march in the parade should gather at the OBN table between 2:30 and 3:00 pm. Questions about the event may be directed to Catherine at the number shown above on this page.

Remember too that the Toronto Gay Men's Chorus is performing in a special concert on the evening of June 29th. For tickets/information phone 366-7723.

New Book by Bi Activists Published

Bisexual activists Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu are the authors of the new book *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out* (Alyson Books, Boston 1991). Congratulations!

New Bi Bulletin Board Access

The Toronto Lesbian and Gay Community Information Bulletin Board System has invited the Ontario Bisexual Network to publish OBN News *online*, and to look after the bisexual area within the bulletin board. Volunteers needed.